

bda Letters Project and Cultural Exchange

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Sacramento, CA

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A Banner Month for LLP!

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

August was the end of the California state legislative session and the legislature had thousands of votes to consider. All those votes were taken as legislators tried to get their bills approved before the legislature closed on August 31.

The wonderful people on our e-mail alert list kept right up with them. I sent out 32 alerts and they, bless their hearts, responded by sending 70,264 messages to their elected officials.

That is the largest monthly response rate we have ever had.

Meanwhile, our snail-mail membership has increased substantially as well. As a result, we had a sizeable increase in the number of paper letters that went to elected officials.

You all can be very proud of yourselves. Our community is an increasingly powerful force in the politics of this state. Together we have shown how it's done.

Stand up and take a bow. ###

Annual Legislative Scorecard Is Ready

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

You will find an abbreviated version of this year's legislative scorecard enclosed with this newsletter. This document gives an overview of the ratings given by the Lambda Letters Project to the voting records of our state legislators during 2002. Lambda Letters does not endorse or oppose any candidate for elective office. However, we invite you to review the legislators' scores shown on the enclosed scorecard and make your decisions on how you will vote in November.

Lambda Letters does publish a more comprehensive scorecard. This larger version includes descriptions of all bills for which legislators' votes were scored. It also gives detailed information on how each legislator voted on each bill. Finally, it rates Governor Davis by scoring the actions he took on bills tracked by Lambda Letters that were approved by the legislature and sent to his desk for signature or veto. You may purchase a copy of this more comprehensive scorecard by sending your request and \$3.50 to Lambda Letters Project, 4577 Park Blvd. #4, San Diego, CA 92116-2673.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Lairibaa Lotto	10 1 10 9 1000 1 10 000
Letters & Messages	Collected
August, 2002	73,268 letters & e-mails
In all of 2002	196,381 letters & e-mails
Dollars Spent	
August, 2002	\$4,443
In all of 2002	\$32,500
Can You Help?	
Dlease support the very	important work of the Lamb

Please support the very important work of the L Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered and intersex persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in American society.

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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave?

If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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Allow Emergency Contraception

By Adrienne Lauby, Women's Issue Analyst

Do you think you could find a doctor to write you a prescription within the next 24 hours? For me—with health insurance, 15 years at the same health clinic, and a good relationship with the office staff—it takes a carefully-timed phone call, an explanation of my symptoms and need for a nurse, and some amount of time in the waiting room. I could also go to an emergency room and wait all afternoon. In a larger city, at some hospitals, I could wait all day.

If you have unprotected sex and regret it, would you make the effort to see your doctor and ask for a prescription for a pill to prevent a pregnancy that might never happen? Does it have to be that difficult?

Emergency contraceptives are an important backup method of birth control. They substantially increase women's control over their reproductive health and lives. Women's Capital Corporation, manufacturer of the emergency contraceptive pill Plan B (levonorgestrel), has applied with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a change in the drug's distribution status from prescription to over-the-counter. Over 70 organizations, including the Feminist Majority Foundation, submitted a joint petition demanding that this drug, or a similar one, be made available without a doctor's prescription.

Emergency contraceptive ("morning-after") pills safely and effectively prevent pregnancy in cases of unprotected intercourse, birth control failure, and sexual assault but they must be taken within 3 days and are most effective within 24 hours.

These pills can delay or prevent ovulation, interfere with fertilization, and alter the uterine lining to inhibit implantation of a fertilized egg. According to the American Medical Women's Association, prescription status is "medically unwarranted."

Currently, emergency contraceptive pills are available behind-the-counter in California, Washington, and Alaska. ("Behind-the-counter" drugs are available without a prescription from a specially-trained pharmacist.) Emergency contraceptive pills are accessible without a prescription in many countries, including France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the

Aid to Students with Drug Convictions

By Marty Martinez, People of Color Analyst

A federal law passed in 1998 banned giving federal aid to students who have been convicted of drug offenses. A student can be denied aid on the basis of a drug conviction from one year to life, depending on the number of convictions. This provision applies even to misdemeanors and violations, not just felonies.

For low- or middle-income students, this misguided provision could mean the end of a college education and all of the advantages it offers. Rather than provide help to low-income students with drug problems, this provision of law only makes it more difficult for these individuals to surmount their hurdles.

Drug enforcement already focuses heavily on minority communities. Recent Department of Justice statistics show that African Americans make up 12 percent of the population and 13 percent of drug offenders, but represent over 62 percent of convictions and more than 70 percent of incarcerations for drug possession. Hispanics are over-represented as well. More than half of all federal powder cocaine prosecutions are against Hispanics, even though they do not use drugs at a greater rate than the population (approximately 10 percent).

Representative Barney Frank (D–MA) has introduced H.R. 786, which is basically a one-sentence bill that repeals this grossly unfair provision. The bill is currently in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. Please urge your representative to support this legislation and do all she or he can to get the committee to move this bill to the floor of the House. ###

United Kingdom, Portugal, Israel, and South Africa.

Over-the-counter status for emergency contraception is supported by many medical and women's health organizations, including the American Medical Association, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Women's Health Network, and National Black Women's Health Project. Add your voice to this effort by signing and returning the letter to the FDA commissioner.

For more information, go to www.feminist.org.

Thank Representative Kehoe

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

Politics is a crazy business. On February 23 Assemblymember Christine Kehoe (D–San Diego) introduced AB 1080. On May 24 the Assembly approved the bill and sent it to the Senate. The Assembly voted 75–0 in favor of the bill. No one voted against it.

AB 1080 was a nice little bill. It simply prohibited the secretary of state from disclosing the addresses of people who register with the state as domestic partners. The bill was important but not earthshaking.

Then in the Senate, with the encouragement of Assemblymember Kehoe, the bill was totally revised. In its new form, the bill stated that all entities which contract with the state must offer the same benefits to the domestic partners of their employees as they provide to their employees' spouses.

The state contracts with many private companies to buy things like food, medicine, paper, pencils, computers, and even cars. The budget just approved by the legislature includes \$98.9 billion in spending by the state during the current fiscal year. You can be sure that many, many billions of those dollars are paid out to companies which sell goods and services to the state. So the passage of AB 1080, in its new form, could have done much to eradicate the last vestiges of sexual orientation—based discrimination in private industry—an effect that could have gone far beyond the borders of California.

This new version of AB 1080 was actually approved by the Senate. However, since the Senate changed the bill after it had already been approved by the Assembly, it had to go back to the Assembly for their agreement to the changes made in the Senate. Not to worry. The Assembly approved the bill without a dissenting vote back in May. Reconfirmation of the bill by the Assembly should have been a cinch.

It turned out not to be.

AB 1080 was now a blockbuster bill with major implications for the state and even the nation. Many more assembly members were reluctant to vote for the bill in its new form. Time was short. The Senate approved the bill on August 27 and the legislature was due to end its session for the year just three days later.

Comprehensive Safe-Sex Education

By Jamie E. Shauvin, HIV/AIDS Issue Analyst

This month we ask you to support funding that allows comprehensive safe-sex education of our young adults. Comprehensive safe-sex education is just that—a comprehensive approach to educating our young people with information on abstinence and contraception, as opposed to an approach that includes information on abstinence only.

Based on information provided by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, most school districts have a policy that mandates safe-sex education programs. Of those programs, 51 percent require that abstinence be taught as the preferred option of safe sex; 35 percent require abstinence be taught as the only option of contraception; and just 14 percent have comprehensive programs that educate young people about contraception and abstinence in order to prepare young people to become healthy, sexually sound, and well-informed adults.

Conservative policymakers continue to support funding for programs that promote abstinence only as the preferred form of safe-sex education even though educators, parents, and students want a more comprehensive education that provides information on HIV, STDs, unwanted pregnancies, and how a young person can become a healthy, sexually active adult. President Bush used abstinence-only education as a component of his effort to become president. Policymakers that insist of providing funds for abstinence-only safe-sex education counter to the needs and wants of the majority of U.S. educators, parents, and students.

We need your support to assure funding for better safe-sex education. Please write to the president and ask him to support federal and state funding for comprehensive safe-sex education programs that include information HIV, STDs, unwanted pregnancies, abstinence, and contraception. ###

It turned out there just wasn't time to find enough votes to get the bill approved again by the Assembly.

I think we owe a debt of gratitude to Assemblymember Kehoe for giving it a try. I urge you to write to her. Thank her for introducing the bill and encourage her to try again next year. ###

October Legislative Update

The California state legislature closed its session for this year on August 31. Any bills not passed and sent to Governor Davis by that date died. The governor had until September 30 to sign or veto the bills sent to him.

The following list is a review of the status of bills that Lambda Letters tracks. Any decisions by the governor not announced by our newsletter deadline will appear in next month's issue.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 2064 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to authorize the establishment of training programs for counselors for publicly funded HIV testing programs by specified community-based, nonprofit organizations. The bill would require the department to establish uniform curriculum content and design for these training programs. Would require the participating community-based organizations to follow departmental curriculum guidelines for these training programs. Costs associated with training programs administered pursuant to the bill would be absorbed by participating community-based organizations.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support, with some concern about the cost to community-based groups.

AB 2197 (Paul Koretz, D-West Hollywood)

Purpose: To modify the Medi-Cal health insurance rules to provide coverage for people who are HIV-positive and who qualify for Medi-Cal, except that they are not disabled.

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buan@brianmcmartin.com www.buanmcmartin.com Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2905 (Roderick Wright, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require HIV testing be offered to all inmates in California state prisons, subject to an inmate's right of refusal.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 187 (John Vasconcellos, D-Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health to establish and maintain a voluntary program for the issuance of registry identification cards to qualified medical marijuana patients, and to establish procedures under which a patient with the card could use marijuana for medical purposes. *Note:* The U.S. Supreme Court recently decided that, in spite of Proposition 215, a person may be prosecuted under federal law for possession of marijuana. The court said medical necessity does not justify possession. So signing up for a marijuana registry card may be signing a confession to violation of federal law.

Status: Failed to pass. **LLP Position:** Oppose.

SB 599 (Wesley Chesbro, D-Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To require health plans to cover medically necessary substance-related disorders in the same way that plans cover any other medical condition. The only limit that may be placed on the coverage is a 60-day annual limit on non-hospital residential care. The bill would also require health plans to offer coverage for the treatment of alcoholism.

Status: Failed to pass. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1315 (Byron Sher, D-Redwood City)

Purpose: To reduce prescription drug costs by establishing a multi-agency prescription drug buying pool in state and county governments and for school districts. By buying in bulk, the central purchaser may be able to lower the per-unit cost of the drugs. The central purchaser could buy drugs for other state or county government agencies.

Status: Approved by both Democrats and Republicans

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on the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The author expects the bill to be approved by the legislature and signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1680 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Changed to a bill to raise the age limit for minors to buy cigarettes.

Status: Failed to pass.

LLP Position: Neutral. No longer relates to one of our

issue areas.

SB 1734 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Current law protects public entities, their agents, or employees from prosecution for distribution of hypodermic needles or syringes to participants in clean needle and syringe exchange projects authorized by the public entity pursuant to a declaration of a local emergency due to the existence of a critical local public health crisis. This bill would also protect them from prosecution for distributing materials to sanitize drug paraphernalia distributed to participants in clean needle and syringe exchange projects. The county in which the program exists would have to annually declare a health state of emergency.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1785 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To remove the requirement that people have a prescription to buy a hypodermic needle and syringe. Also would eliminate the requirement that a pharmacist keep records of who buys them. The bill would allow a person to posses up to 30 hypodermic needles and syringes if purchased through an authorized source. **Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or yeto

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant

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Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issues

AB 1080 (Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego)

Purpose: To prohibit a state agency from entering into a contract for the acquisition of goods or services with a vendor or contractor who does not offer benefits to registered domestic partner employees equal to benefits offered to married employees.

Status: Failed to pass. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1649 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend California's Fair Employment and Housing Act to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people.

Status: The bill was dropped by the author at the request of the governor. He promised Goldberg that he'd fulfill most of the bill's purpose through new procedures at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. So far, he seems to be keeping his promise. LLP Position: Support. We are cosponsors of the bill.

AB 1908 (Rebecca Cohn, D-Campbell)

Purpose: To allow employer-paid, long-term care insurance to state employees and retirees enrolled in the public employee retirement system and to employees and retirees of the legislature, the court systems, school districts, and some local governments in California. Would also allow this employer-paid insurance for their siblings, spouses, parents, and spouses' parents.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support if domestic partners and the parents of domestic partners are added to the bill. The author, thus far, refuses to add domestic partners.

AB 1942 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To allow establishment of a pilot anti-bias

Continued on page 7

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Assembly Members Voting Scores In 2002 Feel Free To Consult This List As You Make Your Voting Decisions

The Scores below show Lambda Letters' rating of the voting record of each Assembly Member on bills relating to our four areas of concern and an overall score.

Name	Party	City	AIDS	LGBT	POC	Women's	Over Al
Aanestad	R	Grass Valley	40%	13%	40%	63%	39
Alquist	D	Santa Clara	100%	100%	100%	100%	100
Aroner	D	Berkeley	100%	97%	95%	100%	98
Ashburn	R	Bakersfield	10%	13%	15%	50%	22
Bates	R	Laguna Niguel	20%	23%	35%	63%	35
Bogh	R	Yucaipa	20%	13%	35%	60%	32
Briggs	R	Fresno	30%	13%	35%	53%	33
Calderon	D	Montebello	90%	93%	95%	80%	90
Campbell, B	R	Orange	15%	10%	20%	60%	26
Campbell, J	R	Irvine	35%	23%	20%	50%	32
Canciamilla	D	Martinez	90%	97%	90%	93%	939
Cardenas	D	Mission Hills	100%	93%	95%	97%	969
Cardoza	D	Turlock	75%	63%	90%	87%	799
Cedillo	D	Los Angeles	80%	77%	65%	80%	759
Chan	D	Oakland	100%	100%	100%	100%	1009
Chavez	D	City of Industry	100%	100%	95%	100%	999
Chu	D	Monterey Park	100%	100%	100%	93%	989
Cogdill	R	Modesto	30%	10%	35%	63%	359
Cohn	D	Campbell	100%	100%	95%	100%	999
Corbett	D	San Leandro	95%	93%	100%	100%	979
Correa	D	Santa Ana	70%	77%	100%	97%	869
Cox	R	Sacramento	15%	13%	50%	63%	359
Daucher	R	Fullerton	20%	30%	85%	77%	539
Diaz	D	San Jose	100%	100%	100%	100%	1009
Dickerson	R	Redding	30%	17%	75%	67%	479
Dutra	D	Fremont	100%	100%	95%	100%	999
Firebaugh	D	Cudahy	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Florez	D	Bakersfield	80%	23%	80%	80%	66%
Frommer	D .	Glendale	95%	100%	95%	97%	97%
Goldberg	D	Los Angeles	95%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Harman	R	Huntington Beach	30%	13%	70%	63%	44%
Havice	D	Bellflower CA	80%	60%	95%	73%	77%
Hertzberg	D	Van Nuys	100%	93%	85%	90%	92%
ollingsworth	R	Temecula	10%	13%	15%	53%	23%
Horton	D	Inglewood	95%	80%	95%	97%	92%
Jackson	D	Santa Barbara	100%	100%	95%	100%	99%
Keeley	D	Santa Cruz	100%	100%	95%	100%	99%
Kehoe	D	San Diego	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Kelley	R	Palm Desert	30%	13%	80%	73%	49%
Koretz	D	Los Angeles	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
la Suer	R	La Mesa	20%	13%	45%	60%	35%
Leach	R	Walnut Creek	20%	13%	25%	63%	30%
Leonard	R	Rancho Cucamonga	30%	10%	35%	60%	34%
Leslie	R	Roseville	30%	13%	45%	63%	38%
Liu	D	Pasadena	100%	97%	95%	100%	98%
Longville	D	San Bernardino	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Lowenthal	D	Long Beach	95%	97%	100%	93%	96%
Maddox	R	Garden Grove	30%	33%	55%	73%	48%
Maldonado	R	San Luis Obispo	65%	27%	90%	83%	66%
Mathews	D	Stockton	85%	70%	95%	97%	87%

Migden	D	San Francisco	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Mountjoy	R	Arcadia	20%	13%	25%	57%	29%
Nakano	D	Torrance	85%	97%	100%	97%	95%
Nation	D	San Rafael	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Negrete McLeod	D	Ontario	100%	100%	100%	97%	99%
Oropeza	D	Carson	100%	100%	100%	97%	99%
Pacheco, B	R	City of Industry	45%	13%	45%	70%	43%
Pacheco, R	R	Riverside	5%	23%	25%	77%	33%
Papan	D	Millbrae	95%	83%	85%	87%	88%
Pavley	D	Encino	100%	100%	95%	100%	99%
Pescetti	R	Sacramento	20%	13%	20%	70%	31%
Reyes	D	Fresno	100%	80%	90%	100%	93%
Richman	R	Granada Hills	90%	40%	60%	77%	67%
Runner	R	Lancaster	20%	13%	25%	60%	30%
Salinas	D	Hollister	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Shelley	D	San Francisco	100%	93%	100%	100%	98%
Simitian	D	Palo Alto	95%	100%	95%	100%	98%
Steinberg	D	Sacramento	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Strickland	R	Camarillo	20%	13%	40%	67%	35%
Strom-Martin	D	Santa Rosa	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Thomson	D	Vacaville	100%	100%	85%	100%	96%
Vargas	D	National City	95%	100%	95%	100%	98%
Washington	D	Compton	95%	83%	85%	90%	88%
Wayne	D	San Diego	80%	100%	95%	93%	92%
Wesson	D	Los Angeles	100%	100%	100%	97%	99%
Wiggins	D	Santa Rosa.	100%	100%	100%	97%	99%
Wright	D	Los Angeles	95%	100%	90%	90%	94%
Wyland	R	Carlsbad	20%	13%	35%	67%	34%
Wyman	R	Victorville	30%	17%	40%	60%	37%
Zettel	R	Poway	20%	13%	50%	73%	39%

Senate Voting Scores In 2002 Feel Free To Consult This List As You Make Your Voting Decisions

The Scores below show Lambda Letters' rating of the voting record of each Senator on bills relating to our four areas of concern and an overall score.

Name	Party	City	AIDS	LGBT	POC	Women's	Over All
Ackerman	R	Tustin	10%	12%	0%	60%	20.38%
Alarcon	D	Van Nuys	95%	100%	100%	100%	98.75%
Alpert	D	San Diego	100%	100%	100%	93%	98.33%
Battin	R	Palm Desert	35%	15%	40%	63%	38.43%
Bowen	D	Redondo Beach	95%	100%	100%	87%	95.42%
Brulte	R	Rancho Cucamonga	15%	12%	20%	67%	28.30%
Burton	D	San Francisco	100%	100%	100%	97%	99.17%
Chesbro	D	Napa	95%	100%	100%	100%	98.75%
Costa	D	Fresno	80%	62%	90%	90%	80.38%
Dunn	D	Garden Grove	80%	96%	100%	100%	94.04%
Escutia	D	Montebello	100%	96%	100%	100%	99.04%
Figueroa	D	Fremont	95%	100%	100%	97%	97.92%
Haynes	R	Riverside	10%	27%	0%	47%	20.90%
Johannessen	R	Redding	45%	23%	40%	73%	45.35%
Johnson	R	Irvine	25%	31%	50%	53%	39.78%
Karnette	D	Long Beach	100%	100%	100%	100%	100.00%
Knight	R	Palmdale	25%	12%	20%	47%	25.80%
Kuehl	D	Encino	95%	100%	100%	100%	98.75%
Machado	D	Stockton	95%	100%	100%	100%	
Margett	R	Arcadia	25%	23%	30%	67%	98.75%
McClintock	R	Thousand Oaks	45%	12%	0%		36.19%
McPherson	R	Santa Cruz	75%	54%	60%	50% 97%	26.63%
Monteith	R	Modesto	30%	15%			71.38%
Morrow	R	Carlsbad	15%	12%	50%	57%	38.01%
Murray	D	Culver City	95%	96%	30%	53%	27.47%
O'Connell	D	Santa Barbara	100%		90%	90%	92.79%
Oller	R	Roseville		96%	90%	100%	96.54%
Ortiz	D		10%	12%	0%	63%	21.22%
Peace	D	Sacramento La Mesa	90%	100%	100%	97%	96.67%
Perata	D	Oakland	50%	65%	80%	83%	69.68%
Polanco	D D	-	100%	100%	100%	97%	99.17%
		Los Angeles	95%	96%	90%	93%	93.62%
Poochigian Romero	R	Fresno	15%	8%	0%	57%	19.84%
	D	Monterey Park	100%	96%	100%	100%	99.04%
Scott	D	Pasadena	100%	92%	100%	100%	98.08%
Sher	D	Redwood City	90%	96%	80%	93%	89.87%
Soto	D	Ontario	95%	96%	100%	97%	96.96%
Speier	D	San Mateo	95%	92%	100%	97%	95.99%
Torlakson	D	Walnut Creek	95%	92%	90%	100%	94.33%
/asconcellos	D	San Jose	90%	96%	100%	93%	94.87%
/incent	D	Englewood	55%	50%	50%	57%	52.92%

Continued from page 6

training program in any county in which hate crimes exceed the statewide average of hate crimes. The project would focus on minors in custody or on probation, probation officers, correction officers, teachers, youth service providers, social workers, parents, and community members. The goal of the program would be to reduce hate crimes.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2216 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: Under the existing law of intestate succession, the surviving spouse is entitled to a specified share of the decedent's separate property that is not effectively disposed of by will. This bill would extend this entitlement to a decedent's domestic partner.

Status: Signed by the governor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2484 (Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara)
Purpose: To prevent and reduce school violence by
requiring school districts to provide instruction and
materials on the prevention of school terrorism through
recognition and reporting prior to the occurrence of the

Status: Signed by the governor. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2651 (Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To establish goals to protect, gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender foster children and foster parents and caregivers. States it is the goal of this state that foster parents, including, but not limited to, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults, shall be identified who are interested in caring for gay, lesbian, or transgendered youth in foster care.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2777 (Joe Nation, D-San Rafael)

Purpose: To allow Santa Barbara, Marin, and Los Angeles counties to offer death benefits, optional retirement allowances, or survivor's allowances to the domestic partners of county employees and retirees. **Status:** Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2862 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: Makes technical, clarifying changes to current laws, as they relate to domestic partners and to wrongful, death, group health or disability insurance programs, and intestate succession.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1661 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide workers compensation payments to workers who take family leave to care for seriously ill family members, including domestic partners. **Status:** Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1945 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To give victims of hate crimes more time to submit hate crimes complaints to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Status: Signed by the governor. LLP Position: Support.

Continued on page 8

Join ECCO as we honor our community's finest.

On Saturday October 5, 2002, ECCO will hold its 19th Annual Awards Dinner at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel in Anaheim. Visit us online for the award winners and latest details!

The Elections Committee of the County of Orange (ECCO) is a non-partisan Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, HIV/AIDS, and Women's political action committee serving Orange County and Long Beach, CA.

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SCA 9 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: To end the practice of reassessing people's homes and greatly increasing property taxes on a home owned by domestic partners (or other unmarried people who share a home), when one of them dies.

Status: Failed to pass. **LLP Position:** Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 1749 (John Longville, D–San Bernardino)
Purpose: To require the governor to proclaim
the third Saturday in June each year as
"Juneteenth National Freedom Day: A
Day of Observance" and to urge the
people of California to join in
celebrating this day to honor and
reflect on the significant role
that African Americans
have played in the history
of the United States and
how they have enriched
society through their
steadfast commitment to
promoting brotherhood

Status: Signed by the

governor.

and equality.

LLP Position: Support.

occupied primarily by very-low-income persons and families. The bill would become operative only if the Housing Bond Act of 2002, as proposed by Senate Bill 1227, is enacted by the voters.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2165 (Virginia Strom Martin, D—Santa Rosa)

Purpose: To require the Joint Legislative Sunset

Review Committee to review the state's shortage of
pharmacists and make recommendations on a
course of action to alleviate the shortage.

Status: Signed by the governor. LLP Position: Support.

AB 2739 (Wilma Chan, D-Oakland)

Purpose: To require health services providers who contract with the State Department of Health Services and with Medi-Cal to take steps to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services to their clients.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or yeto.

LLP Position: Support

AB 1891 (Manny Diaz, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To require the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a program to make matching grants, from money appropriated by the legislature, to local agencies that have housing trust funds, to provide financing for affordable housing to be

SB 1264 (Dede Alpert, D-San Diego)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families. Certain types of payments received by recipients of aid under the CalWORKs program are prohibited from being treated as income or resources of the family and from being deducted from the amount of aid to which the family would otherwise be entitled. This bill says that any award or scholarship provided by a public or private entity to, or on behalf of, a dependent child based on the child's academic or extracurricular achievement or participation in a scholastic, educational, or extracurricular competition may not be treated

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as income or resources of the family for purposes of determining eligibility under the CalWORKs program.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 1860 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To provide a female victim of sexual assault with the option of postcoital contraception. Emergency contraception shall be dispensed upon the request of the victim.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1909 (Rebecca Cohn, D-Campbell)

Purpose: To allow—subject to adequate, discretionary funding from a city or county—that the superior courts in San Diego County, in Santa Clara County, and in any other county willing to participate, develop a demonstration project to identify the best practices to follow in civil and criminal cases involving domestic violence.

The bill would require superior courts participating in this demonstration project to report their findings and recommendations to the Judicial Council and the legislature.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1928 (Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara)
Purpose: To permit a person injured by a crime of violence motivated by gender to bring a civil action for damages against the responsible person or persons.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2030 (Jackie Goldberg, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To allow courts upon request to waive the fee for serving a protective order, restraining order, or injunction if that order or injunction is based upon specified acts or threats.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support.

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Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

SB 564 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: To require applicants for licensure as a psychologist; marriage, family, and child counselor; or social worker who began graduate study on or after January 1, 2004, to complete a minimum of 15 contact hours of coursework in spousal or partner abuse assessment, detection, and intervention strategies. Those who were licensed earlier than that date would be required to take continuing education courses in the above subjects.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1301 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: Current law states that prior to the performance of an abortion, a medical committee must determine that continuation of the pregnancy would impair the physical or mental health of the mother, or that the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. This law instead states that every person has the right to (a) choose or refuse birth control and (b) to choose to bear a child or obtain an abortion. The bill says the state shall not deny a woman's right to obtain an abortion unless the procedure is to be performed or assisted by one not properly licensed by the state or unless the attending physician thinks the baby could live outside the uterus and the doctor believes the abortion is not needed to protect the life and health of the mother.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1320 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To revise and strengthen the definition of the crime of stalking.

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support.

A Correction

Last month in our article by LLP Board Chair Lori Norman, we published her e-mail address incorrectly. She urged people interested in serving on our board of directors or as legislative analysts to contact her. To talk to Lori about this, please enclose a note with your signed letters, asking her to contact you. You can also call her at (818) 785-1563. Her correct e-mail address is: BettyBoop_1930@hotmail.com.

###

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SB 1365 (Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo)

Purpose: Current law allows taxpayers, until January 2003, to include an extra payment with their state income tax return and to designate that extra money to be used to support breast cancer research. This bill would extend the program until January 2008.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1399 (Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To send people to jail for up to one year or fine them up to \$2,000, or both, if they flee the state to avoid paying court-ordered spousal support.

Status: Signed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1618 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To raise the marriage license application fee from \$23 to \$33. The \$10 increase would fund domestic violence shelters, \$4 of which would target the creation of domestic violence shelters in underserved areas and populations.

Status: Failed to pass.

LLP Position: Support.

###

Legislative Scorecard

Continued from page 1

Here are some of the highlights of the scorecard. The scorecard rates the voting record of each legislator in Lambda Letters' four areas of concern:

- HIV/AIDS
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex issues
- Issues of concern to people of color
- Women's issues

An overall score is determined for each legislator by finding the average of his or her scores on those areas of concern.

In the Assembly the overall scores ranged from 100 percent to 22 percent. Assembly Democrats scored from 100 percent to 66 percent, while Assembly Republicans scored from 67 percent to 22 percent. Twelve Democrats received a perfect score of 100 percent, while all but two Republicans got overall scores of below the usual passing grade of 65 percent.

One of those Republicans is Assemblymember Keith Richman (Granada Hills). His overall score was raised by his 90 percent score on HIV/AIDS issues and 77 percent score on women's issues. He got the top overall score among Republicans. His score on HIV/AIDS was actually equal to or better than 10 of the Assembly Democrats. He is worth cultivating on HIV/AIDS issues.

The other Republican to get an overall passing score was Abel Maldenado (San Luis Obispo). Although we scored him only 27 percent on LGBT issues, he got 65 percent on HIV/AIDS issues, 90 percent on issues of concern to people of color, and 77 percent on women's issues. He too seems worth cultivating.

Assemblymember Roy Ashburn (R–Bakersfield) got the lowest overall score in the Assembly. That's no surprise; he is a very conservative legislator

On the Senate side, the situation was much the same. The overall average scores for Democrats ranged from 53 to 100 percent. Republicans' scores ranged from 20 percent to 71 percent.

However, only one Democrat, Betty Karnette (Long Beach), actually scored a perfect 100 percent. Many Democrats failed to get a perfect score because they were absent or abstained from one or more important votes. One Democrat, Edward Vincent (Englewood), gets the booby prize: He was absent or abstained in all but 3 of the 43 senate votes scored by Lambda Letters.

On the other hand, only one Republican senator, Bruce McPherson (Santa Cruz), got a passing score of over 65 percent. No one else even came close. The next highest Republican senator got an overall score of only 47 percent.

By and large these statistics appear to confirm the community's belief that the Democrats support us and the Republicans do not. However, I believe there are

enough exceptions to this "rule" that we should look at each candidate as an individual before we cast our ballot. Sometimes you get a good Republican and sometimes you get a pretty rotten Democrat.

###





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